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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4847  
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE  
RUCNISL/ISLAMIC COLLECTIVE  
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 7276  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 5744  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 2993  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 1462  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6005  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUEIDN/DNI WASHINGTON DC  
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 7411  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 8040  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

Tuesday, 23 December 2008, 13:26  
C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NEW DELHI 003228  
SIPDIS  
DEPARTMENT FOR SCA/INS  
EO 12958 DECL: 12/22/2018  
TAGS PGOV, PREL, PTER, KISL, IN  
SUBJECT: CONGRESS PARTY STUNG PLAYING RELIGIOUS POLITICS  
WITH TERRORISM  
REF: MUMBAI 518

Classified By: PolCouns Ted Osius for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

11. (C) Summary: On the floor of parliament, Indian Home Minister P. Chidambaram officially dismissed comments made by the Minority Affairs Minister in Mumbai Attacks, Karkare Led Investigation into "Hindu Terror"

12. (U) Indian Minorities Affairs Minister A.R. Antulay's sparked controversy on December 17 with comments insinuating that the killing of Mahatma Gandhi in Mumbai Attacks, Karkare led the investigation into the September 2008 Malegaon blasts which claimed the lives of six people.  
Antulay's Comments

14. (U) On December 17, even as a solemn debate on the Mumbai attacks and counterterrorism was taking place in parliament, Antulay made a series of comments. -- "Superficially speaking they had no reason to kill Karkare. Whether he was a victim of terrorism or terrorism plus something, I do not know. -- "Karkare found that there are non Muslims involved in the NEW DELHI 00003228 002 OF 002 acts of terrorism during his investigations in some cases. Any person going to the roots of terrorism has always been the target." -- "Unfortunately his end came. It may be a separate inquiry how his end came." -- "There is more than what meets the eyes." Congress Party Dismisses...

15. (U) Most Congress Party leaders quickly disassociated the Party from Antulay's comments. Congress Party spokesman Abishek Singhvi told the press that the Party was not involved in the Mumbai attacks. ...Then Equivocates...

16. (U) However, on December 21 senior Congress leader Digvijay Singh told the media, "I don't think Antulay made a mistake. What he asked for was a fair trial. ...And Finally Dismisses

17. (U) After taking flack for nearly a week, the Congress Party finally gave its official view when Home Minister Chidambaram stated in parliament that the Congress Party plays a cynical role in Indian politics. Congress Party Plays Cynical Politics

18. (C) Comment: While the killing of three high level law enforcement officers during the Mumbai attacks is a remarkable coincidence, the Congress Party's role in the attacks is a stark reality.